

**ORANGE COUNTY EMS**  
**PARAMEDIC PHARMACOLOGY HANDBOOK**

MEDICATION: NITROGLYCERIN SPRAY	ADULT DOSE	PEDIATRIC DOSE	SIDE EFFECTS	PRECAUTIONS/COMMENTS
<p><b>CLASSIFICATION:</b> Vasodilator</p> <p><b>MECHANISM OF ACTION:</b></p> <p>The following actions decrease myocardial oxygen demand and reduce chest pain from ischemia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dilates coronary arteries.</li> <li>• Dilates venous vessels reducing blood return to the heart (reduces preload).</li> <li>• Dilates arterial vessels reducing peripheral vascular resistance (reduces afterload).</li> </ul> <p><b>INDICATIONS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chest pain.</li> <li>• CHF/pulmonary edema, moderate to severe.</li> </ul> <p><b>DOSAGE FORM:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0.4 mg/metered dose spray oral/lingual, 13.8 gm</li> <li>• 0.4 mg/tab, bottle of 25 tabs</li> </ul>	<p><u>Chest Pain</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0.4 mg SL if systolic BP <math>\geq 90</math></li> </ul> <p><u>CHF</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0.4 mg SL if systolic BP <math>\geq 100</math></li> <li>• 0.8 mg SL if systolic BP <math>\geq 150</math></li> </ul> <hr/> <p>A maximum of 3 doses may be given at 3-5 minute intervals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not approved.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Headache.</li> <li>• Hypotension.</li> <li>• Reflex tachycardia.</li> <li>• Nausea, vomiting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use <b>with caution</b> if given with other vasodilators (e.g., morphine).</li> <li>• BH may order administration of nitroglycerine &gt; 3 doses.</li> <li>• Do not administer within 24 hours of Viagra® ingestion except upon direction of BH physician.</li> </ul>